

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1, 2, 5-10, 14-21 were presented for examination. The instant application was restricted as follows: species I (Figures 1-3 and 5-9) and species II (Figure 4). In response to the restriction requirement, applicant elects, with traverse, species I (Figures 1-3 and 5-9). Furthermore, applicant also submits that claims 1, 2, 5-10, 14-16 are directed to species I. In addition, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is generic to species I and II.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a serious burden on the examiner.

Species I (Figures 1-3 and 5-9) and species II (Figure 4) include specific characteristics that are substantially similar to each other. The substantially similar characteristics disclosed in both species are directed to variants of the same invention and therefore the restriction between the species is improper.

Applicant respectfully submits that the "closed end" of alleged species II (Figure 4) is merely a variant of species I and therefore searching the subject matter of species I and II does not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Furthermore, applicant respectfully submits that the classifications of species I and II are the same thus, no additional searching is required to search species I and II.

If, however, the restriction requirement is maintained, applicant requests and authorizes canceling claims 17-21 corresponding to species II.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted

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